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                       BEFORE THE
               ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
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     IN THE MATTER OF:
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     ELECTRIC POLICY COMMITTEE
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    MEETING,
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 5
                         Chicago, Illinois
                         October 16th, 2001
 6
               Met pursuant to notice at 2:00 p.m.
     BEFORE:
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        ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
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        Mr. Richard Mathias, Chairman
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        Ms. Ruth Kretschmer, Commissioner
        Mr. Terry Harvill, Commissioner
        Mr. Edward Hurley, Commissioner
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        Ms. Mary Francis Squires, Commissioner
12
        (Telephonically)
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     SULLIVAN REPORTING COMPANY, by
22
     Barbara A. Perkovich, CSR
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- 1 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: Good afternoon. This is
- 2 a scheduled meeting of the Illinois Commerce
- 3 Commission, its Electric Policy Committee, held
- 4 pursuant to notice. Present in Chicago are
- 5 Commissioners Hurley, Commissioner Mathias,
- 6 Commissioner Harvill, and we should be joined
- 7 shortly by Commissioner Squires and Commissioner
- 8 Kretschmer.
- 9 As noted in the notice for this meeting,
- 10 the purpose of this meeting is to discuss a letter
- 11 that was sent to Chairman Mathias back in April
- 12 regarding the advance of competition in the
- 13 marketplace. Specifically the issue of the
- 14 provider of last resort as it relates to
- 15 Commonwealth Edison.
- Just a little bit of housekeeping here
- 17 before we begin. There was a notice that was put
- 18 out very shortly some time ago, that there will be
- 19 a workshop on Wednesday, October 24th at 1:00
- 20 o'clock in the Commission's Chicago office. Mainly
- 21 to discuss the issues that are going to be
- 22 presented here today. That is open to anybody and

- 1 everybody that would like to attend. I would hope
- 2 that if you would, if you could please contact one
- 3 of the two people that are actually listed on the
- 4 notice so that we have enough space and can
- 5 accommodate you or your organization.
- 6 That being said, the presentation today
- 7 is going to be given by Ms. Pam Strobel from
- 8 Commonwealth Edison. Ms. Strobel is CEO of Exelon
- 9 Energy Delivery and Chairman of Com Ed. And Ms.
- 10 Arlene Juracek, the vice president of regulatory
- 11 and strategic services for Commonwealth Edison. I
- 12 will turn things over to you, take as much time as
- 13 you need, I'll let you go through your
- 14 presentations and if we could hold the questions to
- 15 the end there will be time for commissioners to ask
- 16 question at that point in time.
- 17 MS. STROBEL: Very well, thank you. Thank you
- 18 Commissioner Harvill, and good afternoon to you and
- 19 to Chairman Mathias, to Commissioner Hurley and to
- 20 Commissioner Squires. We welcome the opportunity
- 21 to begin this discussion in an open forum this
- 22 afternoon. And before I move to our formal slide

- 1 presentation, which Arlene Juracek and I are going
- 2 to share, I wanted to just make a couple of
- 3 comments about what we would hope to do this
- 4 afternoon, and what we are not intending to do.
- 5 And what we would hope to do is layout
- 6 for a lot of future dialogue and discussion how we
- 7 see the transition currently to competition under
- 8 the Illinois restructuring legislation, and then to
- 9 also frame what we see as one very critical issue
- 10 that needs to be addressed in the second half of
- 11 the transition to competition.
- 12 So this is just the beginning. I guess
- 13 the first step would have been the letter that we
- 14 sent in April to the chairman, but this is really
- 15 the first step to get the open dialogue and
- 16 discussion under way on the issue of provider of
- 17 last resort obligations under our restructuring
- 18 act.
- 19 You'll see that we have attempted to lay
- 20 out some factual background as to what has occurred
- 21 in Illinois in this first half of the transition
- 22 period. Some observations of what has occurred, an

- 1 identification of how we see the provider of last
- 2 resort issue being framed in Illinois. But very
- 3 importantly, to some of the members of the audience
- 4 who will be participating in this dialogue, we
- 5 wanted to say at the outset that we do not profess
- 6 to have all of the answers, by any means.
- 7 This is really a step to frame the
- 8 issues, and then to have very robust dialogue among
- 9 all the market participants and all of the
- 10 stakeholders and constituents in Illinois under the
- 11 helm of the Commission to look at this issue. I
- 12 think we will see that this will require a lot of
- 13 reflection and discussion with the best alliance
- 14 that we have in Illinois on this issue. And
- 15 eventually a lot of detail work, undoubtedly, will
- 16 need to occur.
- 17 Today Illinois is over halfway through
- 18 the transition period created by the 1997
- 19 Restructuring Act. As the end of the transition
- 20 period draws near, however, there is a major issue
- 21 that needs to be addressed and resolved in the
- 22 coming year to insure that Illinois' restructuring

- 1 efforts remain on track.
- 2 Problems in California's electric
- 3 industry have raised concerns about whether such
- 4 problems could happen in Illinois after the
- 5 transition period ends. And although when we sent
- 6 our letter in April, I think there was a much
- 7 greater concern that we would see actual rolling
- 8 blackouts, and a much more serious situation in
- 9 California this past summer than what transpired.
- 10 I know that the engaged participants in
- 11 electricity restructuring know that the problems in
- 12 California have not been solved. And in fact, if
- 13 anything, we have some greater advantage of time to
- 14 reflect on what went wrong in California, what is
- 15 going right in Illinois, but what needs to be
- 16 addressed so that we don't end up in a California
- 17 type situation as we get nearer to the transition
- 18 period.
- 19 We do have several advantages in
- 20 Illinois that make it unlikely that we would
- 21 experience California's problems, but now is the
- 22 time to be sure that we do not become lulled into

- 1 complacency because things do seem to be going well
- 2 up to this point. And we have to continue to all
- 3 be involved in managing the transition to
- 4 competition.
- 5 We will further discuss today our April
- 6 2nd proposal, which we framed as our effort to
- 7 create certainty and promote competition by
- 8 appropriately defining Com Ed's power and energy
- 9 supply service obligations in the post transition
- 10 period. We will also address what we propose to be
- 11 our first step in implementing this proposal.
- 12 The Illinois difference. With respect
- 13 to customers actually venturing off traditional
- 14 bundled tariffs, Illinois is in better shape than
- 15 other restructured states. Customer participation
- 16 levels are increasing daily. The competitive
- 17 marketplace is developing, new generation is being
- 18 proposed and constructed in Northern Illinois, and
- 19 other parts of the state.
- 20 Com Ed and other utilities are pursuing
- 21 the development of the Alliance Regional
- 22 Transmission Organization, and eventually the ARTO

- 1 will facilitate the transfer of electricity within
- 2 a larger regional area.
- 3 Let's look at some of the statistics as
- 4 of today, or as of last Friday. As most people
- 5 know now, all 340,000 of Com Ed's commercial and
- 6 industrial customers have a choice of their energy
- 7 supplier. And 3.4 million residential customers
- 8 will have choice beginning on May 1st of next year.
- 9 Nonresidential customers are, in fact, exercising
- 10 choice in Illinois. As of October 12th, there are
- 11 15,666 customers on our rate RCDS or delivery
- 12 service rate.
- This represents a 64 percent increase
- 14 since January 1st, when all nonresidential
- 15 customers were afforded access. That is over
- 16 20,250 gigawatt hours of sales, which is about 33
- 17 percent of eligible sales or 23 percent of Com Ed's
- 18 total system. Just as a frame of reference, that
- 19 is greater than the entire system of Illinois
- 20 Power. And it is over 5,000 megawatts of demand on
- 21 having set a new peak this summer, what is the Com
- 22 Ed 21, 574 megawatt system.

- 1 The next slide that we have shows the
- 2 total number of nonresidential customers taking
- 3 delivery services on our rate RCDS. The red line
- 4 at the top, which represents the total number of
- 5 rate RCDS customers has been steadily increasing
- 6 since open access began in 1999. The three lines
- 7 below it represent the generation supply options
- 8 that delivery service customers are utilizing.
- 9 They are the purchase power option, referred to as
- 10 the PPO. Interim supply service, and RES, Retail
- 11 Electric Supplier supplied the power.
- 12 The next chart reflects the kilowatt
- 13 hour sales of the customers that are enrolled in
- 14 delivery services. In this chart, you can see the
- 15 relationship that has developed between RES
- 16 supplied power, and power supplied under the PPO by
- 17 Com Ed. In the year 2000, RES supply depended on
- 18 FRP service, but beginning in January of '01 that
- 19 service ended. RES initially relied on the PPO as
- 20 a supply strategy, and with the new pricing for the
- 21 PPO, the PPO and RES supply numbers are running
- 22 neck and neck, and we will explain as we go through

- 1 our presentation the significance of that.
- 2 On wholesale supply development, I think
- 3 we have a very good story to tell in Illinois.
- 4 Back in the 1998 time frame, Com Ed began to
- 5 actively invite new generation into its service
- 6 territory. As a result, Com Ed's service territory
- 7 has the most active development of new generation
- 8 in the nation. Over 5,000 megawatts of new
- 9 capacity has been added since 1998, and that
- 10 includes over 32 megawatts on line in the year
- 11 2001. An additional 92 megawatts of new generating
- 12 capacity has been announced for the period 2002
- 13 through 2005. Roughly 3300 megawatts of this new
- 14 capacity is already under construction, and 15
- 15 different corporate entities are involved with
- 16 these projects.
- 17 For the period 2002 through 2005, Com Ed
- 18 has received interconnection requests representing
- 19 over 24,000 megawatts of new generating capacity to
- 20 the system as posted on the OASIS.
- 21 At the same time, we are starting to see
- 22 a changing phenomenon in the wholesale market in

- 1 terms of the price. New generation capacity along
- 2 with declining natural gas costs now are
- 3 contributing factors to the current expectations
- 4 for lower commodity prices next year. The Into
- 5 Cinergy Forward contracts were currently declining
- 6 30 percent over the course of the next year.
- 7 To insure that these markets continue to
- 8 develop, we must appropriately define utility
- 9 obligations, and limit the utility's obligation to
- 10 provide supply service to all customers. It is
- 11 critical that the pricing in this obligation is
- 12 structured in a manner that will facilitate
- 13 continued competitive market development.
- 14 Defining and developing this structure
- 15 today will not only allow the utility to plan
- 16 accordingly, but will provide certainty to
- 17 customers, to the retail electric suppliers and the
- 18 wholesale market participants.
- 19 We have been developing a supply service
- 20 pricing proposal that would, we believe, accomplish
- 21 the following: Provide the price certainty that
- 22 smaller customers might find valuable, without

- 1 discouraging competitive entry, enhance the
- 2 development of competitive marketplaces for large
- 3 users, and help insure a reliable supply of
- 4 electricity for all customers.
- 5 As shown in this chart, a key element of
- 6 our proposal attempts to balance the needs and
- 7 interest of all customers by dividing the
- 8 obligation to serve into two distinct groups, and
- 9 this is the crux of the proposal, that is to
- 10 separate large customers from the small customers.
- 11 We've chosen 400 kilowatts of demand as the
- 12 dividing line between small customers. We would
- 13 refer to the small customers sometimes as the mass
- 14 market and larger customers.
- Note that the 400 kilowatt level divides
- 16 energy sales nearly evenly between the two groups.
- 17 As a basis for comparison, a mom and pop grocery
- 18 store is typically between 200 to 250 kilowatts.
- 19 Your average Jewel and Dominick stores would run
- 20 from 400 to 500 kilowatts. And those big new super
- 21 stores, for example a K-Mart or a Target are
- 22 between 750 kilowatts and one megawatt.

- 1 Dividing the obligation to serve in this
- 2 manner allows the tailoring of supply service to
- 3 the needs of both classes. As 400 kilowatts and
- 4 above, the customer is spending well over 100,000,
- 5 creating both an opportunity and an incentive to
- 6 realize real savings, i.e. a 5 to 10 percent
- 7 savings on a bill of that size, and above, would
- 8 mean real money to that customer.
- 9 The competitive supply market inevitably
- 10 holds some risks for retail customers. When we
- 11 reach that point at the end of the transition
- 12 period when we have full competition for all
- 13 customers, there needs to be a recognition that
- 14 there will be risk associated with full
- 15 competition. And it would be our premises that
- 16 most large customers are generally well equipped to
- 17 manage the risks of the market, and in fact were
- 18 the vocal advocates of competition during the
- 19 debate and passage of the Illinois Restructuring
- 20 Act.
- 21 These customers have the resources, and
- 22 the information at their disposal to exercise

- 1 choice of supply with confidence. On the other
- 2 hand, smaller customers are either less willing or
- 3 less equipped to manage the risks of the market.
- 4 These customers do not have the resources and/or
- 5 the information at their disposal to exercise
- 6 choice with confidence.
- 7 Residential customer participation
- 8 levels nationwide have been understandably lower
- 9 than business customer levels. Arlene will now
- 10 address how we see the risks to small customers.
- 11 How the needs of both small and large customers
- 12 will be met by restructuring the obligation to
- 13 serve. And the first steps that we propose to take
- 14 to transition large customers on to the market.
- 15 MS. JURACEK: Thank you. There has been a lot
- 16 of discussion about market price volatility and
- 17 exposure to it with a lot of discussion about the
- 18 nonresidential switching numbers to date.
- 19 My first slide really drives home a
- 20 message that even those customer who, for example,
- 21 the smaller customers who choose to say stay on a
- 22 bundled rate with the utility will still indirectly

- 1 face some market exposure, even though they are
- 2 going to the incumbent utility for their service.
- 3 They are simply not immune from prevailing market
- 4 conditions under restructuring as it's being done
- 5 in Illinois.
- 6 We know that most Illinois utilities
- 7 will be procuring their supplies from the wholesale
- 8 marketplace to meet what will now become a more
- 9 uncertain, and more volatile level of demand. We
- 10 would hope that there will be choices for
- 11 residential customers, certainly we know that there
- 12 are already are choices for the small commercial
- 13 customers, and that adds a level of volatility to
- 14 the utility supply planning that we've just never
- 15 needed to experience before.
- Now, our conundrum here is that we could
- 17 go out and fully hedge our position. We could
- 18 assume that we will ultimately have to serve all of
- 19 our delivery services customers, everyone hooked up
- 20 to our wires. If we were to do that, however, we
- 21 could end up buying so much supply in the market
- 22 that there is simply not enough available for other

- 1 suppliers to provide and, therefore, really slow
- 2 down the development of a competitive marketplace.
- 3 So we really need to better define our
- 4 obligation to serve so that in attempting to meet
- 5 that obligation in a proper way, we don't
- 6 inadvertently stifle the marketplace development.
- 7 So that's why we have bifurcated our proposal into
- 8 the small group and into the large group, because
- 9 we need to pay attention to the large group in
- 10 order to bring benefits to the smaller group.
- 11 So what we really are attempting to do
- 12 is to balance needs and interests, and as Pam
- 13 indicated earlier we don't have all the answers,
- 14 we've been very busy identifying issues and
- 15 concerns, and we welcome the participation of all
- 16 the parties over the next several months to really
- 17 help us all sort this through. Because we really
- 18 do need to begin now, to begin to assess how we are
- 19 going to address volatility for the smaller
- 20 customers.
- 21 We don't believe that traditional
- 22 ratemaking is the answer. If we just simply were

- 1 to do cost of service ratemaking and leave it at
- 2 that, without paying attention to all the detail
- 3 and all the work that we need to do between now and
- 4 2004, we don't think that customers will be in a
- 5 good position at that point in time, nor will the
- 6 utilities who will be left with guessing as to what
- 7 will be prudent purchasing decisions, for example.
- 8 We know that we have been offering some
- 9 supply options to customer, and in some cases those
- 10 supply options have actually discouraged some
- 11 customers from switching. For example, the frozen
- 12 bundled rate, or the power purchase option. So we
- 13 try to deal with those in our proposal.
- 14 We have this chicken and egg situation.
- 15 Large customers have been switching off of bundled
- 16 services, we need to continue to encourage that and
- 17 to insure that conditions are there so that an
- 18 efficient competitive marketplace is developing.
- 19 And what we would propose to do in order
- 20 to take the next step to keep that movement going
- 21 is to limit the availability of our power purchase
- 22 option to only nonresidential customers paying a

- 1 positive competitive transition charge effective
- 2 this summer.
- We would then also propose, over the
- 4 course of the next several years, to begin to do
- 5 what I call peeling apart the onion, so that by
- 6 2005, our large commercial and industrial
- 7 customers, those over 400 kilowatts, are in fact
- 8 exposed to market based prices from the utility.
- 9 And the idea there being if they want to hedge
- 10 those prices, they have an ability to do that
- 11 themselves, certainly, or to go to an alternate
- 12 supplier to provide them the kind of stability and
- 13 hedging that they need. The utility should not be
- 14 in the position of doing that which the customer
- 15 and the marketplace is perhaps better equipped to
- 16 do.
- 17 At the same time, of course we are
- 18 concerned about price certainty for the smaller
- 19 customer. I think the events in California have
- 20 shown that smaller customers don't have the stomach
- 21 for price volatility or surprises, nor are they
- 22 well equipped to deal with those. Our thought

- 1 right now is that we would have some type of a
- 2 fixed price offer between 2005 and 2008 for these
- 3 customers, which would shield them from the effects
- 4 of load and price fluctuations, but of course allow
- 5 them to switch.
- 6 Quite frankly, we don't have a very well
- 7 developed thought process on how we would do this
- 8 for these customers. Clearly we want to set a
- 9 benchmark price against which RES's will be able to
- 10 compete, but we understand that there are a whole
- 11 lot of other public policy issues which we will all
- 12 need to grapple with in order to do this in a way
- 13 which the legislatures and you, as the regulator,
- 14 deem to be the best way to do this.
- So right now we think the first steps
- 16 need to focus on the larger customers, the 400
- 17 kilowatt and greater customers, recognizing that
- 18 success in that area will bring a predicate for
- 19 success among the smaller customers. And then as
- 20 markets develop we can better assess how we can
- 21 deal with the smaller customers.
- 22 So again, our first step will be to seek

- 1 elimination of the power purchase option for those
- 2 customers not paying transition charges. We would
- 3 hope to make that filing by November 15th, 2001.
- 4 We understand that there will be an opportunity for
- 5 dialogue next week on this issue, and we certainly
- 6 welcome any comments or concerns, particularly of
- 7 an implementation nature that might accompany that
- 8 proposal.
- We are taking this step because, quite
- 10 frankly, it is a first very easy step. The
- 11 Commission has already determined that Com Ed's
- 12 offering of the PPO to customers with a 0 CTC
- 13 really goes above and beyond that which we are
- 14 obligateed to do under the law. And while we have
- 15 found that the PPO has been a very valuable jump
- 16 start to service in our service area, we think it's
- 17 time to pull the plug where we can do so in
- 18 comportance with the law and all of the other open
- 19 access procedures.
- The PPO has been an important
- 21 transitional tool and some of the statistics on
- 22 customers taking the PPO, quite frankly, surprised

- 1 us all. It became very clear that most of the
- 2 alternative suppliers were relying on the power
- 3 purchase option as a supply option. Instead of
- 4 developing their own back room operations or
- 5 procuring power on the wholesale market, it was
- 6 very easy to simply instruct their customers to
- 7 sign up for the PPO and assign that power and
- 8 energy then to the ARES.
- 9 This was an understandable thing to do.
- 10 We are all aware that the wholesale markets are not
- 11 as deep and liquid and transparent as we would like
- 12 them all to be. Certainly we are working through
- 13 the alliance RTO to get to work on daily balancing
- 14 markets, for example. And of course we have also
- 15 improved our own transmission capability so that
- 16 with our import capability of 4500 megawatts we can
- 17 bring other power supplies in and we are
- 18 encouraging, in control area, generation as well.
- 19 So we think that beginning to pull
- 20 reliance on the PPO, given all of the new
- 21 generation, given the transmission reinforcement
- 22 and given the promise of the RTO, is the right

- 1 thing to do.
- 2 85 percent of our PPO customers are on
- 3 the PPO because an ARES or an agent put them there,
- 4 that is very important to understand. Customers
- 5 are not making that choice on their own, it is a
- 6 supply option by a third party. And what is very
- 7 heartening to me, though, is that given the new
- 8 generation, given the transmission improvements, as
- 9 Pam illustrated, the kilowatt hours on PPO versus
- 10 RES supply are actually running neck and neck.
- 11 And I think it's very important to
- 12 understand that ARES themselves flowed over 1500
- 13 megawatts of power at the time of our system peak
- 14 this year. And that's a number of memory, but it's
- 15 in that ballpark, which was very, very important.
- 16 Very few ARES are relying 100 percent on the PPO.
- 17 They are all developing their capabilities to
- 18 procure power, and I think we need to do whatever
- 19 we can to assist them in continuing that ability.
- 20 We would also point out that the Federal
- 21 Trade Commission has just issued a very good report
- 22 on an assessment of competitive development

- 1 nationwide, and they've also pointed out the
- 2 detrimental impact on relying on things like the
- 3 PPO, they specifically named the Illinois PPO in
- 4 particular.
- 5 This bar chart here illustrates some of
- 6 the statistics that I've thrown out, it's
- 7 concentrating on customers in the 1 to 3 megawatt
- 8 group, 3 to 6, the 6 to 10 and the over 10. And
- 9 the blue are those customer sales that are still on
- 10 Com Ed's bundled service, but if you look at the
- 11 combination of the red and the white, these are
- 12 customers that have ventured off bundled tariff
- 13 service. And again, you can see the split between
- 14 the RES supply and the PPO supply.
- This is very heartening for this large
- 16 group in particular. 25 percent of the generation
- 17 sales to customers of 1 megawatt or greater is
- 18 actually coming from RES's, so we think this is a
- 19 very positive sign and will allow us over the
- 20 course of the next year to basically set a plan
- 21 where we can begin to get out from under the
- 22 traditional bundled rate and go to some type of a

- 1 market based pricing.
- 2 And we understand that the Commission
- 3 needs evidence to act on, that's why we have broken
- 4 this evidence out in this particular way, because
- 5 we nay want to peel apart the onion and do this
- 6 layer by layer over the course of the next several
- 7 years.
- 8 In summary, on our PPO proposal, Com Ed
- 9 does share everyone's concerns regarding excessive
- 10 reliance on the PPO service. We think that
- 11 continued reliance on the PPO, as well as on
- 12 bundled rates, will dampen wholesale market. And
- 13 that limiting the eligibility for the PPO, which we
- 14 would hope to do in the next month, basically it's
- 15 a small step, but it's a very important first step
- 16 towards a greater wholesale market development.
- 17 This will signal to everyone in the
- 18 marketplace that it's time that everybody started
- 19 acting as market supply resources. And we do want
- 20 to point out that in light of the low market prices
- 21 today, actually very few customers will be impacted
- 22 by our proposal. Fewer and fewer customers are

- 1 impacted by this proposal every time we look at the
- 2 market forwards. We believe it's something less
- 3 than 90 megawatts of demand, and perhaps a couple
- 4 of hundred customers.
- 5 Again, the market prices at that point
- 6 in time will determine just how many customers are
- 7 going to be impacted who will no longer have the
- 8 PPO available as a supply option.
- 9 Again, we want to point out that this is
- 10 a small step, but it's a necessary adjunct to all
- 11 of the other work that we are doing, be it working
- 12 on the ARTO or on transmission or on encouraging
- 13 new generation in our service area.
- 14 I would like to conclude by saying that
- 15 the obligations to serve the bundle rate has
- 16 effected and will continue to effect the
- 17 development of competition in our service area. In
- 18 order to instill certainty and promote competition,
- 19 we have to figure out how to restructure that
- 20 obligation to serve appropriately.
- 21 And while the large concern is what will
- 22 happen to prices in 2005, this is a pressing matter

- 1 today. We know, for example, that if we are to
- 2 declare something competitive, or to ask you to
- 3 declare something competitive, that customers on
- 4 the bundled rate still get that rate for three more
- 5 years. So we have quite a bit of regulatory lag
- 6 built into the legislation we are operating under.
- 7 And it is, therefore, a good reason, but we need to
- 8 keep that in mind that if we are to get to point B
- 9 in 2005, we need to start thinking now how we are
- 10 going to effectively get there.
- 11 Again, the details of much of this is
- 12 still under development. We believe that an active
- 13 dialogue with all the parties and the Commission
- 14 over the course of the next year will really help
- 15 us to map out more concretely where we think
- 16 Illinois competition will be headed. Com Ed's
- 17 service area in particular, especially over the
- 18 next year. Thank you.
- 19 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: Thank you. We will now
- 20 turn to questions from the commissioners.
- 21 Beginning with Commissioner Kretschmer.
- 22 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Can either of you tell

- 1 me how -- what CTC is right now?
- 2 MS. JURACEK: The CTC varies by customer class
- 3 because it starts out with your bundled rate as the
- 4 starting point, and then it subtracts delivery
- 5 service charges and market values and a mitigation
- 6 factor.
- 7 It does vary, there are a few customers
- 8 that have a 0 CTC now, which means their bundled
- 9 rate is lower than the combination of market value
- 10 plus delivery services. I don't recall the range,
- 11 but it is on the order of a half a penny a kilowatt
- 12 hour or less, unless Krumrine can correct me on
- 13 that.
- 14 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Half a penny or less
- 15 for what class of customers?
- MS. JURACEK: Generally it's nonresidential
- 17 customers who currently have customer choice. We
- 18 have filed within our delivery services tariff some
- 19 exhibits with those exact numbers. I'm sorry, I
- 20 didn't bring those with me.
- 21 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: With PPO customers
- 22 that you were saying should be encouraged to leave

- 1 and get into the market, what is it for those
- 2 customers, how much is the CTC for those customers?
- 3 MS. JURACEK: Again, it varies. All
- 4 nonresidential customers are able to take the PPO
- 5 service. The market value is the market value that
- 6 we use in the CTC calculations. It is the period A
- 7 market value or the period B market value.
- 8 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: How long is that CTC
- 9 going to continue? It stops in '04, is that the
- 10 cutoff date?
- 11 MS. JURACEK: We have the ability to collect it
- 12 through 2006.
- 13 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Do you really think
- 14 that with CTC of any substance that we are going to
- 15 have many competitors coming into this market?
- MS. JURACEK: You know, it's been an interesting
- 17 phenomenon. When we negotiated the law, we thought
- 18 people didn't want a CTC and that a 0 CTC was a
- 19 good thing. It turns out that a 0 CTC means you
- 20 are better off on bundled rates, and it is those
- 21 customers with a positive CTC who are able to enjoy
- 22 the mitigation factor savings provided for in the

- 1 law. So we've had some unintended consequences or
- 2 counterintuitive results in the law.
- 3 But having a positive CTC means that
- 4 there are some built in savings in the math for the
- 5 customer.
- 6 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: You are saying that if
- 7 I'm a customer and I'm paying a CTC rate, that
- 8 that's a positive effect for me?
- 9 MS. JURACEK: It means that the sum of the
- 10 market value, plus your delivery service charges
- 11 are less than your bundled rate. And to have a
- 12 larger CTC means the market values are lower, which
- 13 means the alternate suppliers also are able to
- 14 procure power at low cost.
- 15 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: How many marketers do
- 16 you have operating currently within your service
- 17 territory?
- MS. JURACEK: We have 8 marketers that are
- 19 either RES's or alternate suppliers operating. But
- 20 a large number of customer that are on the power
- 21 purchase option are put on there by agents who are
- 22 not certified RES's, they are simply consultants,

- 1 aggregators in the field. So we actually have a
- 2 larger number of folks out there making a living.
- 3 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Speculatively,
- 4 however, what percentage of your load are they now
- 5 handling?
- 6 MS. JURACEK: Basically it would be 33 percent
- 7 of our kilowatt hour sales.
- 8 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: So you are saying that
- 9 8 marketers are now taking 33 percent of your load
- 10 away from you as a supplier, is that what you are
- 11 telling me?
- 12 MS. JURACEK: Let's take a look at the red,
- 13 white and blue chart.
- 14 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: What page are you on?
- 15 MS. JURACEK: That would be on Page 19. And for
- 16 these larger customers, 25 percent of the kilowatt
- 17 hour sales to these customer groups are through
- 18 RES's. There is another large percentage, almost
- 19 another 25 percent, that is through the PPO. Some
- 20 of which is as a result of ARES putting customers
- 21 on the PPO. So it's some combination of the red
- 22 and the white bars.

- 1 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Some combination of
- 2 the red and the white bars. If we totalled them
- 3 up, then, you say it would be approximately
- 4 one-third of the load, is that what I'm hearing?
- 5 MS. JURACEK: Basically we have about 35,000
- 6 megawatts on both PPO and RES service.
- 7 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: 5,000.
- 8 MS. JURACEK: 5,000 megawatts, about 25 percent
- 9 of our kilowatt demand and a larger percentage of
- 10 our sales.
- 11 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Thank you, I may have
- 12 more questions later.
- 13 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: Chairman Mathias.
- 14 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: In order to play the devil's
- 15 advocate role, I will ask a couple of questions of
- 16 you. I'm interested in Page 2 of your proposal, it
- 17 says that your discussion today is aimed at
- 18 creating certainty and promoting competition.
- 19 Would this proposal promote competition
- 20 in, for instance, a CILCO service territory?
- 21 MS. STROBEL: I think theoretically this should
- 22 create competition for all parts of Illinois. I'm

- 1 not familiar enough with the CILCO statistics in
- 2 terms of switching to say exactly how and when that
- 3 would occur.
- 4 But under our premises that it's time to
- 5 change the PPO, and make that step so that we have
- 6 more of a market oriented approach to getting large
- 7 customers into the marketplace, then for large
- 8 customers who would be under those same rules and
- 9 regulations in the CILCO service territory as they
- 10 would enter into the wholesale market and begin to
- 11 secure their own supply, one would think that that
- 12 would contribute to furthering competition for all
- 13 of us in the state.
- 14 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: That's a good segue into the
- 15 next question. Because CILCO has no customers on a
- 16 delivery service tariff, and most of the other
- 17 utilities in the state have very few customers on a
- 18 delivery service tariff.
- So are your comments on Page 3, where
- 20 you say the competitive marketplace is developing,
- 21 would you limit those discussions or those comments
- 22 only to Commonwealth Edison service territory, or

- 1 are you saying that the competition or the
- 2 competitive marketplace is developing in all
- 3 service territories throughout the state?
- 4 MS. STROBEL: I feel that I can only speak to
- 5 what I know about within the Com Ed service
- 6 territory. But the point of those words was to
- 7 really make the observation about what is really
- 8 happening on the supply side.
- 9 If we start with just as number one
- 10 principle in having a competitive marketplace, we
- 11 would have to have supply being fostered and new
- 12 generation coming into the market. Without that,
- 13 and I guess that's where we were back in April
- 14 looking at the California situation, without
- 15 adequate supply, there will never be new entrants
- 16 interested in coming into a market because all of
- 17 the existing supply is going to be bought by the
- 18 incumbent utility with the provider of last resort
- 19 obligation.
- 20 So number one, if we are going to have a
- 21 wholesale marketplace develop there has to be a
- 22 good supply in order to induce entrance for trading

- 1 in that marketplace. So as a juncture, which is.
- 2 I think, what we are trying to say today, we've
- 3 reached about the halfway point in the transition
- 4 to competition.
- 5 Looking at this juncture, we do have a
- 6 competitive marketplace developing because of so
- 7 much new supply having come into, and I'm speaking
- 8 now to the Com Ed service territory, although I
- 9 think there have been some independent power
- 10 plants.
- 11 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: So this construction of
- 12 peaker plants is an indication of a competitive
- 13 marketplace?
- 14 MS. STROBEL: It's essentially to start the
- 15 development of a competitive marketplace.
- 16 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: Ms. Juracek and I have had
- 17 long discussions about robust competition or the
- 18 development of robust competition, and I won't go
- 19 there today. But I may only suggest that I would
- 20 believe that your comments would be limited pretty
- 21 much to the Commonwealth Edison service territory.
- I think you would get some pretty strong

- 1 arguments about others that there may not be a
- 2 competitive marketplace outside the Commonwealth
- 3 Edison territory, and some would argue regarding
- 4 the Commonwealth Edison service territory itself.
- 5 Another question, isn't your proposal
- 6 really mixing two concepts. One is you are
- 7 suggesting that the large users should be subject
- 8 to the market and are smart enough to take care of
- 9 themselves. But at the same time you are saying
- 10 that all users should be restricted from going on
- 11 the PPO, regardless of their size.
- MS. STROBEL: I'll let Arlene fill in here. But
- 13 the first step is simply to eliminate the PPO for
- 14 those customers who will not be paying the CTC.
- 15 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: Regardless of size?
- MS. STROBEL: That's right. So that is the first
- 17 step. And the way we are currently fashioning
- 18 this, is that we would not have the complete
- 19 elimination of the PPO until we reach the end of
- 20 the transition period. And that that would be the
- 21 appropriate point to say if we were going to have a
- 22 fully competitive market, we have to eliminate what

- 1 was considered to be a transition or a fall back
- 2 position when the law was passed in 1997.
- 3 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: But was one of the provisions
- 4 of this well-balanced, concisely drafted piece of
- 5 legislation.
- 6 MS. STROBEL: Just as I said at the start of my
- 7 comments, that we would not profess to have all the
- 8 answers. I don't think all the people and entities
- 9 that were involved back in 1997 professed to have
- 10 all the answers.
- 11 And in fact if you look at one of
- 12 differences between how Illinois passed and
- 13 negotiated its restructuring legislation, versus
- 14 California or Texas, as an example, there was a
- 15 recognition that we would need to learn as we
- 16 proceeded. And that we chose as a state not to
- 17 make all of the decisions associated with
- 18 restructuring right at the outset. And so that's
- 19 why we have a transition period and I think that's
- 20 why we are in a very good place in Illinois to be
- 21 able to stop today and at this time period, and
- 22 assess where are we.

- 1 And the PPO would be one of the
- 2 mechanisms that deserves to be put under the
- 3 microscope and said has it worked, has it been an
- 4 element in fostering competition. If you look at
- 5 the statistics, we would say it was necessary to
- 6 get it started, but now that we have the marrying
- 7 of the RES's and the PPO's, it's time to say is
- 8 that needed any long, and then to take it in steps
- 9 to eliminate it.
- 10 So when we reach the point where we hope
- 11 to see full competition, there would not longer be
- 12 that crutch or that transition mechanism.
- 13 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: But the elimination of the
- 14 PPO would also have an impact on the revenues of
- 15 Commonwealth Edison.
- 16 MS. JURACEK: Certainly. If I could supplement,
- 17 from where I sat back in '96 and '97, the PPO was
- 18 really put into the act for two reasons. One,
- 19 which I call the keep the utilities honest reason,
- 20 which was basically to say if there is going to be
- 21 a market value used in the CTC calculations, then
- 22 the utilities ought to be willing to sell power at

- 1 that value.
- 2 And the other reason was a concern among
- 3 certain customer groups that because of
- 4 transmission constraints, they perhaps would not
- 5 have access to competitive supplies and therefore
- 6 wanted a market based option available from the
- 7 utility. So those were two reasons why the PPO,
- 8 from where I sat, were put into the law.
- 9 I don't think any of us at that point in
- 10 time anticipated how heavily the RES's and other
- 11 agents would be relying on it for their service.
- 12 Clearly it still serves those two original
- 13 purposes, the keep the utilities honest purpose and
- 14 a protection against transmission constraints.
- But where we can eliminate its use as a
- 16 crutch, within the confines of the law, I think it
- 17 is one small step, and just one indication that
- 18 it's time to push the birdies out of the nest, so
- 19 to speak, and really begin to expand their use of
- 20 the competitive market to supply their customers.
- 21 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: And are the customers asking
- 22 for a discontinuation of PPO.

- 1 MS. JURACEK: I think customers are asking for
- 2 economic energy choices, and probably don't care
- 3 one way or the other. We need to have customers,
- 4 obviously, that are interested in savings, and
- 5 active alternate suppliers who are interested in
- 6 getting those savings from the competitive
- 7 marketplace.
- 8 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: One final question, on Page
- 9 19 where you give the RES supply and Rider PPO, how
- 10 much of the RES supply is provided by your
- 11 affiliate?
- 12 MS. JURACEK: I don't know.
- 13 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: Would it be half?
- 14 MS. JURACEK: I'm aware that our affiliate is
- 15 making sales to the alternate suppliers. I'm also
- 16 aware that will are other generators making sales
- 17 within our control area as well. I just don't have
- 18 the percentage.
- 19 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: Thank you.
- 20 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: Commissioner Hurley.
- 21 COMMISSIONER HURLEY: I don't want to go on and
- 22 on about this PPO that much, but in point of fact a

- 1 couple of week ago I went out and gave a little
- 2 presentation to the IIEC group, and there was much
- 3 discussion after my presentation about the PPO.
- 4 Has this proposal been on the table for
- 5 some time, Arlene?
- 6 MS. JURACEK: Yes. After Pam wrote her letter
- 7 to you, we did speak to a number of groups,
- 8 including the IIEC. And some of them, when I said
- 9 earlier that customers don't care, let me amendment
- 10 that by saying there are a few IIEC members who
- 11 would care deeply, and want us out of the PPO
- 12 business.
- 13 COMMISSIONER HURLEY: That was very clear during
- 14 my session with them. And I'm certainly aware of
- 15 the fact that these are very intelligent purchasers
- 16 of energy services within our state. These guys
- 17 take it seriously. And my impression after the
- 18 meeting was that they were interested in things
- 19 moving along in this fashion that you are now
- 20 proposing here.
- 21 Mrs. Strobel, you made a sweeping
- 22 statement on Page 3 of your proposal, with respect

- 1 to customers venturing off traditional bundled
- 2 tariffs, Illinois is in better shape that other
- 3 restructured states. And I put a little note, why.
- 4 I think you are right, but it is a sweeping
- 5 statement, would you care to elaborate on it?
- 6 MS. STROBEL: I think part of it is related to
- 7 the PPO, and just to what we've seen happening in
- 8 the market with falling wholesale prices, recently.
- 9 And if you look at some of the other
- 10 states, and I am somewhat familiar with
- 11 Pennsylvania now, although I would still not write
- 12 it all out on a piece of paper for you, but
- 13 customers are actually coming back to the incumbent
- 14 utility in Pennsylvania because of the way the law
- 15 structured the shopping credit, and then forced
- 16 certain customers off of the incumbent utility, as
- 17 used the electricity version of slamming as a way
- 18 to get the marketplace started.
- 19 And then as the marketers determined
- 20 that there margins were so low, because of what was
- 21 happening in the wholesale markets, they were
- 22 either determining to get out of business, or they

- 1 were going bankrupt, or customers were not as
- 2 enamored with having a choice, and so they were
- 3 coming back to the incumbent utility.
- 4 Which, if you are measuring competition
- 5 by how many customers are actually leaving the
- 6 incumbent utility and shopping in the marketplace,
- 7 would not be a good thing to say that competition
- 8 is working.
- 9 So as just a measurement, if we look at
- 10 Illinois, and say, is there competition, is the law
- 11 working? I think a good -- it's not the only way
- 12 to look at it, but one measure is to say, how many
- 13 customers have elected to go off of fully bundled
- 14 tariffed rates? And there we have a greater
- 15 proportion of customers in the nonresidential
- 16 segment of our customer classes that have done
- 17 that.
- 18 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: Commissioner Squires.
- 19 COMMISSIONER SQUIRES: Thank you. I have very
- 20 little to add. However, in your concluding remarks
- 21 on Page 21 there is a mention that this is a
- 22 pressing matter and several steps must be taken to

- 1 insure that all involved have time to prepare. And
- 2 the next statement that several aspects of our
- 3 proposal are still in development. Can you
- 4 elaborate on that a little bit?
- 5 MS. JURACEK: We basically know where we want to
- 6 end up, or where we think we want to end up in
- 7 2005. It's getting from here to there that really
- 8 needs to be worked out.
- 9 Certainly there are checks and balances
- 10 within the law with respect to what the utilities
- 11 can do, with respect to what the Commission must
- 12 do. And a lot of this will depend on the continued
- 13 development of the marketplace in Illinois. We
- 14 clearly need to take careful steps and well
- 15 reasoned steps, anticipate the unanticipated to the
- 16 extent that we can, and really work out how we are
- 17 going to unfold the regulated rates that currently
- 18 are frozen that we're operating under, and get a
- 19 bundled rate fall back for the large customers, in
- 20 particular, that will make sense by the time we get
- 21 to 2005. So that the market will continue to
- 22 develop.

- 1 COMMISSIONER SQUIRES: Do you feel that you can
- 2 accomplish this?
- 3 MS. JURACEK: I think it's going to be a joint
- 4 effort among all the parties in the room, the
- 5 utilities, the commissioners and the alternate
- 6 suppliers and the customer groups to really figure
- 7 this out. It's going to be a larger effort, too.
- I think we need to do whatever we can in
- 9 the FERC arena to help assure that the ARTO or the
- 10 MISO, or whatever the ultimate regional
- 11 transmission organization for the area is going to
- 12 be, and to help work on the liquid and deep markets
- 13 that we need.
- 14 We also as a state need to continue our
- 15 current success in bringing new supply into the
- 16 state. Obviously we need to do that in a rational,
- 17 well reasoned way, but we all as a state need to
- 18 continue on several different fronts.
- 19 COMMISSIONER SQUIRES: Thank you, very much.
- 20 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: Chairman Mathias.
- 21 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: The third prong, I think, of
- 22 your program I think would be the fixed price offer

- 1 that would shield the small customers. Would you
- 2 care to elaborate on that? This is on Page 16.
- 3 MS. STROBEL: Right. That is one of the key
- 4 areas where the details would need to be worked
- 5 through, and worked out with all of the market
- 6 participants, and all the people who are
- 7 represented in this room. We would not lay out any
- 8 kind of a specific proposal on that today.
- 9 But the concept is that there should be
- 10 an element of a fixed price offering for those
- 11 small customers under the premises that many of
- 12 them will not want to or choose to go to
- 13 alternative suppliers. If they choose to, they
- 14 will be able to. This is not as an alternative to
- 15 their having choice, this is in addition to choice.
- But it's part of the overall concept of
- 17 having a way that the utility can plan, reasonably
- 18 for what its supply obligation would be. And if we
- 19 know that we would be offering a fixed price to
- 20 that segment of customers, then we would be able to
- 21 take the steps, the long-term steps that you need
- 22 to take to secure that supply and hedge against

- 1 that risk.
- 2 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: So really you are suggesting
- 3 three parts of the program. One, what we just
- 4 discussed, and that is to fix price offer for the
- 5 smaller customer for a period of three years,
- 6 sometime beginning in 2005. Secondly, limit in
- 7 2002 the availability of the PPO. And third, give
- 8 the large users what you say they wanted, and that
- 9 is the inability to come back to Commonwealth
- 10 Edison at some future point in time.
- 11 MS. STROBEL: Exactly.
- 12 MS. JURACEK: Let me amend that a little bit. We
- 13 are not saying that the larger users are unable to
- 14 come back to Commonwealth Edison. As a practical
- 15 matter, we are the control area operator. The
- 16 point is to do it in a way which will encourage
- 17 them to shop in the market by pricing that in a way
- 18 that's tied to the market, and really push them out
- 19 to the alternate suppliers as a preferable hedging
- 20 tool.
- 21 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: I don't think there is
- 22 probably too much disagreement that consumers

- 1 should have services that accurately reflect the
- 2 risk that the utility is undertaking to provide
- 3 them the service, to follow along with what the
- 4 other commissioners have said.
- 5 My understanding of this is it's going
- 6 to be accomplished, hopefully, in a series of
- 7 steps. The first step being the elimination of the
- 8 PPO for those customers who no longer have a CTC
- 9 beginning next year.
- 10 The next step would be to develop some
- 11 type of bundled rate or possibly unbundled rate
- 12 which as a generation component that accurately
- 13 reflects the market risk associated with taking
- 14 service from utility, essentially at a moments
- 15 notice.
- And then third is dealing with the mass
- 17 market, which you don't have a lot of details on
- 18 right, and we wouldn't expect you to given the time
- 19 frames we are talking here. Is that an accurate
- 20 statement?
- 21 MS. JURACEK: Yes.
- MS. STROBEL: I think so.

- 1 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: The other question I have
- 2 is you have a significant number of consumers that
- 3 are taking service from PPO. Under this proposal
- 4 have you run any numbers or done any analysis as to
- 5 what the affect would be for those customers on the
- 6 PPO currently when they would return to bundled
- 7 tariff service, or whether they would, as you said,
- 8 push the birds out of the nest into the market?
- 9 MS. JURACEK: Clearly we can't know that with
- 10 certainty. But with the 83 percent of PPO
- 11 customers being put there by somebody else, it
- 12 means that customer already has a relationship with
- 13 an agent or with an RES. Which to me would
- 14 indicate that with market prices as low as they are
- 15 projected to be next summer, there is a good
- 16 possibility that they will stay with the retail
- 17 electric supplier, or the agent will hook them up
- 18 with the retail electric supplier. So it's our
- 19 hope that the preponderance of those folks, in
- 20 fact, do not come back to bundled service.
- 21 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: Excuse my ignorance on
- 22 this question but, I don't think it's real clear.

- 1 There are some utilities in the state who have
- 2 elected to eliminate their CTC for certain
- 3 customers, and have also seen that they have the
- 4 right at some point in time in the future to
- 5 reinstitute that CTC for those same customers.
- Is it safe to assume that the
- 7 elimination of the PPO for those customers with 0
- 8 CTC would remain in full effect throughout the
- 9 transition period? You wouldn't be reinstituting
- 10 CTC's for certain customers and essentially
- 11 creating chaos as far as administration of this is
- 12 concerned?
- 13 MS. JURACEK: We've been looking at the law in
- 14 terms of what that would entail. And our
- 15 inclination right now is to just basically let the
- 16 CTC float as it will. If market prices stay low,
- 17 their CTC's will continue to be 0 and they will
- 18 continue to be ineligible.
- 19 However, if market prices were to
- 20 increase dramatically, and their CTC's were to
- 21 change, then that would effect their eligibility at
- 22 that point in time. It would, in effect, make more

- 1 customers ineligible for the PPO if market prices
- 2 were to increase.
- 3 Our inclination right now is that there
- 4 are fewer unintended consequences if we just let
- 5 the calculations float and let the eligibility
- 6 float. Obviously we would be interested in any
- 7 feedback from customers or suppliers as to how that
- 8 would work.
- 9 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: Okay. Are there any
- 10 other questions? Commissioner Kretschmer.
- 11 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: I too am interested in
- 12 the question that was asked by the chairman on Page
- 13 19. You said you didn't have the information of
- 14 what percentages were as far as your own ARES and
- 15 others. Could you perhaps get that information or
- 16 supply us with that information?
- 17 MS. JURACEK: The question was supplied by the
- 18 Exelon affiliate, which is not the ARES, it is
- 19 power team selling at wholesale. And I'm afraid
- 20 that I'm unable to get that information.
- 21 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Who could? We can?
- 22 COMMISSIONER HURLEY: Probably.

- 1 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Well, we can try. I
- 2 have a couple questions about peakers. Where are
- 3 -- first of all, let me rephrase. What fuel is
- 4 being used for those peakers?
- 5 MS. STROBEL: Gas.
- 6 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Are any of the peakers
- 7 being built in Illinois base load or are they all
- 8 peakers?
- 9 MS. STROBEL: They are all peakers. Intermediate
- 10 peakers for the most part. I don't think any of
- 11 these are base load. This is something we didn't
- 12 cover in our remarks this morning, but when you do
- 13 look at the longer term supply needs of Illinois, I
- 14 think we will, maybe not in this forum, but in some
- 15 forum, I think we will be talking about siting
- 16 additional base load plans for Illinois. This is
- 17 something we have started to talk about.
- 18 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Are the location of
- 19 these peakers close to markets, or are they closer
- 20 to supply? In other words, closer to perhaps an
- 21 interstate pipeline, or where are they being built
- 22 for the most part?

- 1 MS. STROBEL: We could provide you with a map,
- 2 because I know we used that in the April/May time
- 3 frame when we are talking about the current supply
- 4 portfolio in Illinois.
- 5 Most of these plants have been sited in
- 6 the locations that we had identified back in 1998
- 7 as being the best sites in terms of the supply,
- 8 they're close to the gas transportation, and close
- 9 to interconnection to the transmission grid. So we
- 10 tried to kind of put an X on all the sites within
- 11 our own service territory that would be good for
- 12 both purposes. And for the most part, they have
- 13 been sited there. Not in all cases.
- 14 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Are any sited on your
- 15 existing plant land sites, land that you own?
- MS. JURACEK: Well, Com Ed doesn't own the
- 17 fossil sites anymore. And I don't believe anybody
- 18 is building peakers on any of the nuclear sites
- 19 that Exelon owns.
- 20 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Last winter we saw
- 21 extremely high natural gas prices. President Bush
- 22 has emphasizeed that we need a diversity of supply,

- 1 coal, nuclear, natural gas, so on and so forth.
- 2 I'm wondering, at the moment, our natural gas
- 3 prices are very, very low. But that can change,
- 4 too. What do you think would happen to these
- 5 peaker plants, who, I'm sure that the management
- 6 has signed contracts for their supply to go to X Y
- 7 Z, whoever, some company, what do you think would
- 8 happen if the supply of natural gas were to take a
- 9 dramatic jump in price, and I mean dramatic, and
- 10 hold for a while?
- 11 MS. JURACEK: I think a lot of that would depend
- 12 on the hedging strategies that those peaker plant
- 13 owners had employed. When the forward started to
- 14 creep up, did they start to lock in some longer
- 15 term supply instead of just buying from the spot
- 16 market. So I would hope that it would be
- 17 moderateed, and that they would not all have been
- 18 relying on spot market purchases.
- I believe, just based on a layman's
- 20 reading of the newspapers, and talking with gas
- 21 folks, that they are engaging in more of that
- 22 hedging, which would moderate that impact some

- 1 what. Over all, prices wouldn't go up. Whether it
- 2 would go up in a same amount as the spot market is
- 3 difficult to say.
- 4 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Com Ed has done no
- 5 surveys or investigations as to plans that these
- 6 plants have, these peaker plants, as far as
- 7 managing to stay in production should the price of
- 8 natural gas rise dramatically?
- 9 MS. STROBEL: No.
- 10 MS. JURACEK: No.
- 11 MS. STROBEL: And we do now receive our full
- 12 requirements of supply through 2004 through the
- 13 affiliate power team.
- 14 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Yes, I know that.
- MS. STROBEL: And they would be procuring the
- 16 power from those peaker plants.
- 17 MS. JURACEK: I do think we can get an
- 18 underlying sense of where the marketplace generally
- 19 thinks those things are headed by looking at the
- 20 Into Cinergy Forwards which we've shown into our
- 21 slides.
- 22 To the extent generation by natural gas

- 1 produces electricity and folks are pricing forward
- 2 electricity prices, there seems to be some
- 3 confidence that at least going through calendar
- 4 year 2002, prices are going to be relatively low.
- 5 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: We've been surprised
- 6 before.
- 7 MS. JURACEK: Yes, we have.
- 8 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: As far as these
- 9 peakers are concerned, there is nothing that
- 10 mandates that they sell their power in Illinois.
- 11 They can be built in Illinois and sell their power
- 12 in Kentucky, Indiana or any place else they choose
- 13 to?
- 14 MS. JURACEK: That's right.
- 15 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: If a peaker plant is
- 16 built, and the peaker plant asks for an
- 17 interconnection, who pays the cost of the
- 18 interconnection to the peaker plant? Does the
- 19 peaker plant pay it or who does pay it? Just put
- 20 it that way.
- 21 MS. JURACEK: Basically the peaker plant pays
- 22 for for the cost of the interconnection.

- 1 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: So they pay the whole
- 2 cost, there is no burden on customers of Com Ed?
- 3 MS. STROBEL: That is a question that FERC has
- 4 examined, and I think that they are starting to
- 5 reexamine how the interconnection costs should be
- 6 paid for. Either up front by the peaker plant
- 7 owner, or as part of the transmission charges.
- 8 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: That's the question
- 9 that came to the front because the CEO of Southern,
- 10 I've forgotten his name offhand, I've heard him
- 11 speak and expressing great concern about who was
- 12 paying the cost of the intersection. So the FERC
- 13 has just gotten on that lately, because until now,
- 14 in fact I think at the moment, they are still
- 15 saying that the utility has to pay the cost of the
- 16 interconnection. I think I'm right on that, but I
- 17 think there is some reconsideration on that point.
- 18 MS. JURACEK: We've been employing the direct
- 19 assignment methodology wherever we could. It would
- 20 make sense that the cost causer would pick up the
- 21 cost. But we are very troubled by some of the
- 22 direction that the FERC discussion is going right

- 1 now, which roll it all into the transmission rate.
- 2 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: And if that -- if the
- 3 FERC were to hold to the position that they are
- 4 now, would the host utility or the host state then
- 5 have to pay the cost of the interconnection, and
- 6 pass that through to their customers?
- 7 MS. JURACEK: It would be in the transmission
- 8 tariff of the transmission entity, which we would
- 9 hope would be the ARTO.
- 10 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Well, would the cost
- 11 be passed through to the entire transmission
- 12 service territory, or just to the state in which
- 13 the peakers are built?
- 14 MS. JURACEK: I believe it would be rolled into
- 15 the ARTO rates, generally.
- 16 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Is that currently the
- 17 law or FERC is indicating, I think, FERC was saying
- 18 at this point states.
- 19 MS. JURACEK: I think that's open for discussion
- 20 still at FERC.
- 21 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: I would suggest that
- 22 if the FERC is going to hold to the firm position

- 1 that states should pass through the cost to their
- 2 customers, I would very quickly become an advocate
- 3 of no more peakers in Illinois. Let them go to
- 4 Indiana, let them go to Kentucky, they are not
- 5 building anything. I think its an issue that we
- 6 should be very concerned.
- 7 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: That being said, if there
- 8 are no more questions, I would point out once again
- 9 we have a meeting scheduled for Wednesday October
- 10 24th at 1:00 p.m. here in Chicago. I know we are
- 11 scheduled to be in Springfield, I will be in
- 12 Chicago for that workshop. The workshop is open to
- 13 any and all who wish to attend and come and state
- 14 an opinion on this.
- 15 My feeling right now is without having
- 16 drafted an agenda for that meeting we are going to
- 17 focus on the he elimination of the PPO for CTC -- 0
- 18 CTC customers, as well as maybe get into a little
- 19 bit of discussion about the bundled rate structure
- 20 for customers, the larger group of customers that
- 21 was talked about earlier. I doubt we will get into
- 22 the residential or smaller market or the mass

- 1 market.
- 2 COMMISSIONER KRETSCHMER: Chairman Harvill, as
- 3 chairman of the electric committee, I'm wondering
- 4 if we should not schedule maybe a joint meeting
- 5 with the gas committee, even invite the telephone
- 6 companies to come in to discuss security in a
- 7 troubled time. So perhaps you and I can talk.
- 8 I'm not trying to get any details, I am
- 9 looking for the broad pictures, not specifics, I
- 10 don't want to know where every supply depot is, so
- 11 I think you and I can discuss that perhaps with
- 12 Commissioner Hurley and have a joint meeting of the
- 13 flee committees.
- 14 CHAIRMAN MATHIAS: I think we should consider
- 15 that before we go forward with that.
- 16 COMMISSIONER HARVILL: The meeting is 1:00
- 17 o'clock, please contact one of the two people
- 18 listed on the agenda. I will endeavor to have an
- 19 agenda out by late this week, early next week for
- 20 that meeting. And if there is nothing else to come
- 21 before the Commission, we are adjourned. Thank you
- 22 all.

1	(Whereupon those were all the
2	proceedings had in the above
3	<pre>entitled matter.)</pre>
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